

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-2 and 4-22 are pending in the present application, with claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 19, and 22 being independent. No new subject matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action that claims 2, 8-13, and 18-21 are allowed and that claims 4-7 would be allowable. Claim 4 has been rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate claims 4-7 as being allowed. Further, for at least the reasons detailed below, all pending claims should be considered allowable.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected: claims 1 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Inbar (US 5,963,276); and claims 1 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Dubinovsky et al. (US 2002/0149852 A1). These rejections are respectfully traversed insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims.

First, Applicants respectfully submit that Dubinovsky et al. does not qualify as prior art under any section of 35 U.S.C. §102.

The present application has a priority date of March 28, 2001, whereas, Dubinovsky et al. has a priority date of April 13, 2001, which is later than the priority date of the present application. In addition, Applicants submit herewith a verified translation of the priority document, namely JP 2001-092114, thereby perfecting priority. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection on the basis of Dubinovsky et al. is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1 and 15 are directed to, generally, an optical source device and include among the combination of elements an optical deflector and an optical reflector. The optical deflector changeably reflects a received emitting light in either a first direction or a second direction. The optical reflector reflects the deflected light from the optical deflector along an axis of the second direction substantially back towards the optical deflector and substantially towards the lamp. Additionally, axes of the first direction and the second direction are different than an axis of the emitting light emitted from the lamp.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art, including Inbar, fails to teach or suggest at least that "axes of the first and the second direction are different than an axis of the emitting light emitted from the lamp," as recited in independent claim 1 and 15.

Referring to, for example, Fig. 3 of the present application, it can be seen that light L20 and L30 each have a different axis than an axis of the emitted light L10.

In contrast thereto, Inbar provides absolutely no teaching that an optical reflector reflects deflected light from an optical deflector along an axis of the second direction substantially back towards the optical deflector and substantially towards the lamp. Whereby axes of the first and second direction are different than an axis of the emitting light emitted from the lamp.

Dependent claims 14 and 16-17 should be considered allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, in view of the above discussion, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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